THE BLOOMFIELD CITIZEN.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1889.

The Criticism.

The members of the Township Committee seem to be considerably annoyed concerning the communication published in last week's Citizen concerning the re-districting. They are likewise much inclined to find fault with the editors for admitting the communication. We should have supposed that the members of the Township Committee should, of all persons, appreciate the difficulties involved in conducting the Citizen to the satisfaction of everyone in all things. They themselves have had considerable experience in the endeavor to satisfy the diametrically opposed. Had we rejectep the article, we would have been accused of suppressing the [illegible] public. Having admitted it we are accused of adding to [illegible] already not over-pleasant burdens of the Township Committee.

Public acts are the legitimate subject of public criticism and even at the expense of displeasing some of our best friends and most loyal supporters, we must continue to open the columns of the Citizen to the use of all who consider themselves aggrieved. Of course articles sent us must be neither libelous and scurrilous nor profane nor indecent. But strange as it may seem to the uninitiated in newspaper work, our rejection of communications not free from these defects obtains for us unstinted abuse, and that too from some people who should know better.

It is well known that the Citizen sets its face against indiscriminate fault-finding with the Township Committeemen and public officers but they must not be too thin skinned.

Upon reading again the article "Re-districted Bloomfield" we are confirmed in our original opinion that the Township Committee should regard it as a matter for amusement and not of annoyance. We do not believe even the writer took it seriously.

The present re-districting of the Town was a makeshift and was so understood.

The Electric Light Contract

In the discussion relative to electric lighting, we have endeavored not be influenced on the one hand by the electric light at any price people, nor on the other hand by the irreconcilable opponents of it. In many towns now lighted by electricity, the people before its introduction had no public lighting system at all or were depending on oil or other inferior means. Under these circumstances they were prepared to grant almost any terms demanded by electric lighting companies in order to procure the light. It is manifestly absurd for any company to expect such favorable terms from a township like Bloomfield, laboring under no such hard necessity: and it would indicate a weakness or stupidity not for a moment to be thought possible on the part of the township representatives to grant the extensive privileges proper enough in the case of towns in a less favorable position.

The franchise for electric lighting is considered on all hands to be a most valuable one. No one is more alive to this than the Edison Company, one of its representatives going so far as to state publicly, that if the Township Committee would grant them the privilege of erecting and maintaining poles and wires they would willingly forego making a contract for lighting the streets. The attorney for the electric light company has been in constant attendance upon the meetings of the Township Committee and the Street Lighting Committee to obtain the most valuable concessions possible for the company. There is no fault to be found with this, it would be a poor attorney who did not endeavor to work in the interests of his clients.

But if the franchise is so valuable to the company to receive, it is proportionately valuable for the Township to grant; and what is granted should be subjected to the keenest scrutiny by the Township Committee, its legal adviser and the taxpayer. The difference between the franchise, so much desired by the electric light company and the contract for lighting the streets must be kept clearly and at all times in view.

Several weeks ago the Township Committee passed a resolution accepting the bid of the Edison Company for lighting the streets, subject of details to be hereafter agreed upon. This of course bound the Committee to nothing more than to make a contract for lighting the streets for one year (the statutory limit.)

We believe there is little of opinion relative to the expediency of having the streets lighted by electricity at the price in the Edison Company's bid. And that is all that the Township Committee have so far agreed upon. For the justification of the Township Committee, we reiterate the fact that all they have so far agreed to do is to award the contract for lighting the streets for one year to the Edison Company, provided the company can show themselves in a position to do the work. Much injustice has been done the Township Committee by the misapprehension on the part of the public, that they have irretrievably committed themselves to granting an extensive and valuable franchise to the Edison Company. The franchise, that is to say the privilege of erecting and maintaining poles and wires and necessary apparatus for a longer or a shorter time and under greater or less restrictions, is still an open question before the committee. They are absolutely free from any entanglement by resolution or otherwise in this matter.

We know we are voicing the sentiment of the Township Committee, when we state on their behalf that they are not only willing, but anxious to receive expressions from tax payers on this important matter. Nothing except the original gas and water contracts [illegible] before the town for many years approach in importance the matter of granting a franchise to the electric light company.

We have one thing to particularly insist upon, and that is that it is all important that the contract granting the franchise when made should be set forth in such plain terms that there shall be no misunderstanding its meaning. Let nothing be left to be gathered by inference or implication. What either side intends it should not object to seeing set forth in plain English. To object shows insincerity.

A Sound Legal Opinion.

E. Bainbridge, Munday Esq., County Atty., Clay Co., Tex., says: "Have used Electric Bitters with most happy results. My brother also was very low with Malarial Fever and Jaundice, but was cured by timely use of this medicine. Am satisfied Electric Bitters saved his life."

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Copperas, per lb	.04
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Epsom Salts, per lb	.08
Essence Peppermint, per pint	.50
Essence Jamaica Ginger, per pint	.50
Flaxseed, whole or ground, per lb	.10
Glauber Salts, per lb	.05
Glycerine, per lb	.35
Insect Powder, pure uncolored, per lb	.46
Paregoric, per pint	.50
Quinine, sulphate powder, per ounce	.49
Rochelle Salts, per lb	.36
Seidlitz Powder, per doz., in tin box	.50
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Quinine Pills (Parke Davis' make in bottles of 100 pills, 2 grains each, per 100)	.30
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Pure California Brandy, per quart	.90
Pure Holland Gin, per quart	.75
Pure Jamaica or St. Croix Rum, per quart	1.10
Pure New England Rum, per quart	.58
Pure 7 year-old Rye Whiskey, per quart	1.00
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Pure California Port Wine, per quart	.40
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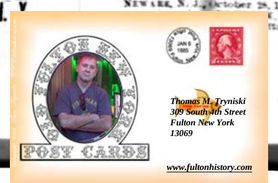
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